

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, because the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; does not introduce any new claims; does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and places the application in better form for an appeal should an appeal be necessary.

As noted in the Office Action Summary, Claims 1-3, 13-16, and 18 are pending. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Basis for the amendments may be found throughout the specification as-filed, for example, on page 14 at paragraphs [0026] –[0027], on page 24 at paragraph [0059], on page 25 at paragraph [0061], and on pages 33-34 at paragraphs [0087]-[0088]. No prohibited new matter is presented herein. Applicant reserves the right to file at least one continuation application directed to any subject matter canceled by way of the present Amendment.

Applicant notes with appreciation that rejection of Claims 1-3, 13-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 13 stand objected to as purportedly the term "neurons" should be replaced with "neuron" for issues of grammar. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 13 by replacing the term "neurons" with "neuron." Thus, this rejection is moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3, 13-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as the specification purportedly does not provide enablement for a method of contacting a neuropathic hippocampal neuron under *in vivo* conditions.

As noted by the Office at page 3 of the Office Action Summary, Claims 1-3, 13-16, and 18 are enabled for a method of contacting a neuropathic hippocampal neuron under *in vitro* conditions. Therefore, in the interest of expediting prosecution,

and without acquiescing in this rejection, Applicants have amended Claims 1-3, 13-16, and 18 to recite a method of contacting a neuropathic hippocampal neuron under *in vitro* conditions.

In light of the above amendments, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn and Claims 1-3, 13-16, and 18 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.


In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

(INCLUDING ATTORNEYS FROM BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS)

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